GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:68
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES
Jindal Shri Naveen;Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain parts of the country are currently in the grip of drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the extent of loss suffered by each State as a result thereof during the current year;

(d) the States visited by the Central teams to assess the situation with the findings thereof;

(e) the assistance and foodgrains sought, State-wise; and

(f) the actual amount released and foodgrains provided to overcome the problem as on date, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 68 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27TH NOVEMBER, 2006.

(a) to (f): This year, in view of deficient rainfall in part of the country during South-West Monsoon (June-September) period, preliminary reports were received from the Governments of Assam, Bihar, Karnataka and Nagaland intimating emerging drought/drought-like situation of varying magnitude. Reports of drought/drought-like situation in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal were also received. Senior Officers from the Department visited Assam, Nagaland and West Bengal for preliminary assessment of the situation. However, till date the Governments of Assam, Karnataka and West Bengal have formally declared parts of their respective States as facing drought situation, as indicated below;

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Assam  - 22 districts
Karnataka - 128 taluks
West Bengal - 6 districts
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The primary responsibility for taking necessary measures in the wake of natural calamities (including drought) is that of the State Governments concerned. There is ready availability of funds with the State Governments under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking necessary measures. The Centre and State Governments contribute to this Fund in the ratio of 3:1. The Central share is released in 2 half-yearly instalments. Need for providing additional assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) in the case of calamities of severe nature, where the funds available in the State`s CRF are found to be inadequate to tackle the situation, is considered on receipt of a Memorandum from the State Governments, as per the prescribed procedure.

So far, Memorandum seeking central assistance in the wake of drought has been received from the Government of Karnataka only. The State Government has sought financial assistance of Rs.1262.95 crores from NCCF and release of 5.74 lakh MTs of food grains for undertaking relief employment programmes. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the drought affected areas of the State from 9th to 11th November, 2006 for an on-the spot assessment of the situation. Further action in this regard will be taken as per the existing procedure. As an interim ad-hoc measure, 50,000 MTs of rice has been allocated to Karnataka, under the special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) scheme, for taking up relief employment works in the affected areas.

No other State has so far submitted any Memorandum/request for financial assistance or for allocation of food grains, for the current drought.